



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND MONIES
TO ACQUIRE AND IMPLEMENT A COUNTYWIDE RISK MANAGEMENT
SOFTWARE SOLUTION
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Requesting authorization to utilize \$1,208,922 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to acquire enterprise software licensing and implement a countywide network vulnerability and threat assessment software program that will identify and mitigate network security risks.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve and authorize the use of \$1,208,922 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to acquire software licenses, first year maintenance and support, and implementation services to support the countywide deployment of a network vulnerability and threat assessment software solution.
2. Approve McAfee Vulnerability Manager (MVM) risk management software as the standard information technology security tool for performing network vulnerability, threat assessment and remediation for all County departments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

To support the internal operations and the delivery of services, the County has made substantial investments in information technology (IT). Like all government organizations, it is faced with a variety of daily information security threats, including software vulnerabilities, viruses, worms, inappropriate passwords, insecurely configured servers, and scans and attacks from the Internet and other networks.

To protect against information security threats, the County must regularly assess operations for IT vulnerabilities and risk mitigation opportunities. To automate the periodic assessments of network connected devices, particularly applications and database servers, the Chief Information Office (CIO) is requesting ITF monies to support acquisition and countywide implementation of MVM risk management software.

Approximately 46,000 MVM software licenses have already been individually acquired and successfully deployed in seven departments (Chief Executive Office, Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health, Internal Services Department, and Treasurer Tax Collector). The recommended action will enable the County to leverage its current investment, and more cost-effectively acquire an additional 87,000 licenses to cover all departments. Moreover, the implementation services included in this project will standardize deployment of the system software to enable better central and departmental vulnerability management, from discovery through remediation, and quickly reduce exposures to potential security threats.

In requesting the acquisition of MVM software, the CIO is also recommending that your Board adopt this solution as the County standard until such time that it is determined a better product solution is available. Further, the CIO will collaborate with the Auditor-Controller to establish a County IT Risk Management program that will utilize the MVM software to identify and monitor departments' security posture to ensure appropriate remediation and compliance.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This recommendation supports the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence, Workforce Excellence, Organization Effectiveness, and Fiscal Responsibility. It is also consistent with Board Information Security Policies # 6.107 – Information Technology Risk Assessment and # 6.108 – Audit and Compliance, and the County's Information Security Strategic Plan that was approved by your Board on February 13, 2007, and revised on July 30, 2008. Finally, it complies with security provisions under the federal Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) for County covered departments.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Based on the justification discussed throughout this Board letter, the ITF Committee voted on March 13, 2008, to recommend funding in the amount of \$1,208,922 to support the countywide acquisition and deployment of the risk management software.

The project cost breakdown is as follows:

Description	Amount
Software	573,000
Implementation Services	330,522
Software Maintenance and Support (First Year)	305,400
Total	\$ 1,208,922

As discussed above, this purchase will enable the County to leverage its existing license base to achieve volume discount pricing for an additional 87,000 licenses. This represents an estimated savings of 73 percent if these licenses were to be purchased individually by departments.

Subsequent year funding for annual maintenance and support costs beyond the initial purchase will be the responsibility of the departments. The seven departments that have already deployed the software will realize a 31percent savings over their current maintenance rates.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

County Code Section 2.119.03(C) provides that the CIO shall "Adopt standards for countywide information technology, which shall be subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. County departments and County information technology bodies shall adhere to such standards."

CONTRACTING PROCESS

If ITF funding is approved, the CIO will request the County Purchasing Agent to execute a sole source Purchase Order (PO) contract to acquire the MVM software licenses, implementation services, and first year maintenance. MVM was identified as a leading network vulnerability scanning software solution through marketplace research. A technical evaluation determined there is also a close fit with County functional and technical requirements. In addition, the County already has a significant investment in acquisition and implementation costs for the successful deployment in seven County departments, which represent approximately 46,000 licenses.

Due to the close fit with County requirements and large installation of the MVM software, the CIO determined that a sole source PO was the most effective and efficient method to acquire the requisite network vulnerability scanning software and services.

This purchase will enable the County to leverage its existing license investment to achieve a volume discount pricing for an additional 87,000 licenses.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this project will improve the County's Information Security Program by identifying computer vulnerabilities and risks and support remediation efforts to reduce exposures to potential security threats.

CONCLUSION

The approval of ITF funds will enhance the County's Information Security Program's ability to regularly assess operations for IT vulnerabilities and risk mitigation opportunities. This will ensure that system and applications operate effectively with appropriate confidentiality, integrity and availability.

Respectfully submitted,



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Acting Chief Information Officer

RS:GM:RP:ygd

c: Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel
Wendy Watanabe, Acting Auditor-Controller
Information Systems Commission